



April 10, 2023

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Anoka County Seeking Volunteers for ‘Mighty Mississippi Cleanup Challenge’**

Anoka County Parks is taking part in the Mighty Mississippi Cleanup Challenge this spring and is seeking volunteers to help improve the quality of the river by removing refuse from its banks.

There are two opportunities to volunteer:

- 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 22 — Mississippi West Regional Park, 13900 Traprock St. Ramsey.
- 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26 — Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, 9750 Egret Blvd. NW, Coon Rapids. A volunteer work group from Medtronic will be present at this cleanup.

Call 763-324-3413 to RSVP to one or both cleanup events and for more information. Attendees are asked to wear closed-toe shoes and gloves. Anoka County Parks will issue garbage and recycle bags to separate and recycle waste. Parks Department staff and equipment will be present at these events to address the removal of any large or hazardous items.

“The Mississippi River is one of the world’s largest rivers, and it starts right here in Minnesota,” said District 5 Anoka County Commissioner Mike Gamache. “What we do here, in terms of pollution mitigation and habitat preservation, has a direct impact on the quality of the entire waterway. Preserving this natural asset for future generations is essential, and a great way to do that is by volunteering at these river cleanup events.”

Participants in these events can share their experience on social media: #winneristheriver.

**-more-**

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## **Anoka County Seeking Volunteers for ‘Mighty Mississippi Cleanup Challenge’ – Add 1**

### **About the Mighty Mississippi Cleanup Challenge**

Officials in Goodhue County were made aware of a large buildup of garbage along the banks of the Mississippi in 2022 and decided to organize a river cleanup and challenge other governments in Minnesota that border the river to do the same.

In 2021, citizen scientists surveyed over 69 square miles along the Mississippi River corridor and catalogued over 660 pounds of plastic. Garbage and pollution have led to the Mississippi River being listed as the 6<sup>th</sup> most endangered river in the nation.

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